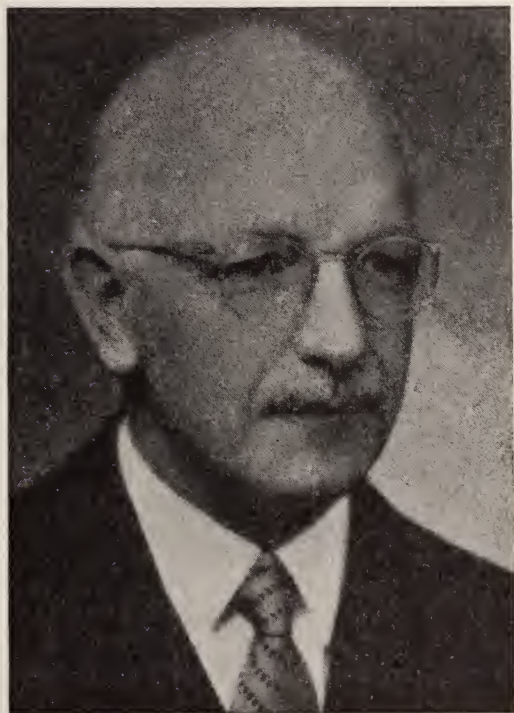


The Brooklyn Jewish Center Review

March, 1948



ISRAEL H.
LEVINTHAL

The Brooklyn Jewish Center and The American Jewish
Community Honor Rabbi Levinthal on His Sixtieth Birthday

• CENTER BULLETIN BOARD •

F BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER Forum Lectures and Discussions

CONCLUDING FORUM LECTURE of the Season

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 29th
at 8:30 o'clock

•
Speaker

JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

Famous liberal preacher, minister of the Community Church. Dr. Holmes has recently returned from an extended trip to Asia and Europe.

•
Subject

"WHAT THE WORLD LOOKS LIKE
TODAY — THE OBSERVATIONS OF
A WORLD TRAVELER"

•
Admission to the lecture will be free to members. Non-members will be charged 40¢ including tax.

PASSOVER SEDORIM

will be conducted at

THE CENTER

Friday and Saturday Evenings
April 23 and 24

The Sedorim will be conducted by

Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal

with the assistance of

Cantor William Sauler

Final Basketball Game of the Season

This Sunday Evening, March 28th

Brooklyn Jewish Center

vs

All Star Team

Consisting of leading basketball players in the city

Preliminary Game at 8:00 P. M.

Admission

Center members — 75c (incl. tax)

Non-members — \$1.20 (incl. tax)

DRAMA

The Young Folks Talent Group will present at the meeting on March 30 its annual theatrical production — "*The Happy Ending of a Gruesome Ghost*." The performance will begin promptly at 9:00 P. M.

A Social Hour Will Follow

Admission only by presentation of 1948 membership cards.

MUSIC

BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER CHORAL SOCIETY

- Join our newly formed Mixed Choir
- Open to all men and women of the community
- Sing in four part harmony
- Songs of Palestine, Hebrew melodies, American Folk Songs, Negro Spirituals

☆

- *Come and Bring a Friend*
- *No Musical Requirements*

Rehearsals Every Tuesday at 8:00 P. M.

BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER REVIEW

Vol. XXIX

MARCH, 1948 — ADAR-II, 5708

No. 28

Center Celebrates Sixtieth Birthday of Dr. Israel H. Levinthal

The Brooklyn Jewish Center and leaders in public life are taking pleasure in honoring Dr. Levinthal on the occasion of his reaching the three-score milestone. Few men in the American Jewish community have led so useful and distinguished a life as has Dr. Levinthal, and few have received the affection that has warmed his career. The "Review" joins in celebrating this anniversary.

RABBI LEVINTHAL AT SIXTY

By LOUIS J. GRIBETZ

A GRATEFUL and affectionate congregation at the Brooklyn Jewish Center is paying homage to its revered Rabbi and spiritual leader, Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. This anniversary, in which the community at large will also participate, will be marked by appropriate ceremonies and festivities at the Center, including a public celebration on April 6th, and a dinner on April 8th, and the publication of this special dedicatory issue of the *Center Review*. Through these events the membership and the community will not only express their deep admiration and affection for the Rabbi, but will also draw renewed inspiration and fresh stimulation from his life and work.

The occasion has already called forth a great outpouring of messages in praise of Dr. Levinthal from local and national organizations and representative lay and religious leaders in the community and country. These tributes express high appreciation of Dr. Levinthal's character and ideals, acclaim his noted and sincere contributions as a religious and communal leader, and bear testimony to the debt his people owe him for his ardent and useful public service.

Dr. Levinthal may derive deep satis-

faction from hearing the full chorus of "well done" from the multitudes who delight in honoring him. To receive commendation from those who are themselves praiseworthy is a priceless reward.

Dr. Levinthal has added reason to rejoice. He is very happy in his personal life; he is successful in the career he planned in his youth; he can witness the luxuriant blossoming of the Center under the leadership indefatigably rendered by him over long and troublous years; he has the confidence and affection of the entire Jewish community; his keen and fertile mind holds promise of many more years of signal intellectual achievement.

The lavish opulence of welcome and tribute to Dr. Levinthal has more than personal significance. It points a moral to the American rabbinate and to American Jewry. For Dr. Levinthal's life and career demonstrate vividly the glorious opportunities for creative service which the American Rabbinat should and might render, but, alas, has, in large measure, failed to do.

In the attainment of the highest ends of their ministry, the American rabbi appears to have encountered serious difficulty. Whether because of the complexi-

ties of Jewish life in this country, or because of the fast tempo of the age, or because of a misconception of their true functions as spiritual leaders, or because of manifold burdens thoughtlessly assumed by or thrust on them, some rabbis have not developed their ministerial potentialities to the full and have not given American Jewry an adequate service, or enabled it to acquire the rich and stimulating fruits of the Jewish heritage.

A multitude of distractions have diminished the energies of some rabbis and left them little time to soak themselves in the treasures of Jewish tradition. The sphere of things Jewish has at times shrunk to a small area of their interests and concern. Frequently discoursing on a wide range of subjects, these rabbis generally succeed in emphasizing everything but what is specifically Jewish. Empty philosophies, false cultures, strange theologies, specious sociology—these, along with speeches "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing", have all too often found their way to the pulpit. Rhetorical flourishes and felicitous phrases have far too frequently been utilized not to supplement a sermon but to supplant it.

It is to the everlasting credit of Dr. Levinthal that he has not allowed him-

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self to be swerved by false ideas, to be captivated by spurious ideals, to depart from the path of Jewish knowledge and inspiration, to forget or cease observing zealously his true functions as a teacher and preacher in Israel. Thoroughly at home in all the other fields which mark the modern man of culture, busy as he has been in non-Jewish matters, Dr. Levinthal has always sedulously striven to emphasize the value and content of Jewish tradition and learning. He has ever endeavored to follow and exemplify the high standards of Jewish scholarship.

The staple of his preaching has been the vast and ancient fundamental Midrashic literature. He once said to the writer: "If you take away from me the Midrashic Literature, I cannot preach, for I have no cause and I have no knowledge." There can be no Jewish life, he asserts, where there is no root connection with the Jewish past. Judaism cannot be taught or understood without the help of intelligent and informed interpreters of the centuries-old body of Jewish literature. We are dependent on instruction from the past. We must get illumination from the ancient pages. Rabbi Levinthal, therefore, followed the old formula, "maggid ha-katub" (the Scriptures teach), "Yelammedenu rabbenu" (let our master teach us). Thus he gives prominence to the wisdom of the ancient Jewish masters. To suffuse the minds and hearts of his listeners with the holiness, beauty and goodness of Judaism, Rabbi Levinthal lets "The Great ones of the Generation," "The Great Interpreters of the Law," "The Men of the Great Assembly," the Soferim, Tannaim, Amoraim, the "Darshomin Gedolim" speak through him when he interprets and expounds the law from the pulpit. Dr. Levinthal fulfills the admonition of the Fathers: "Search the Torah carefully; search it again, for everything is contained therein, and swerve not therefrom for thou canst have no greater excellency than this." With the utmost painstaking care, he prepares his sermons. Long and extensive is the time he devotes to research and study on his themes.

For nearly thirty years Dr. Levinthal has been preaching in the Brooklyn Jew-

A TRIBUTE FROM GOVERNOR DEWEY

I AM happy indeed to send warm greetings to the members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center on the occasion of the celebration of the sixtieth birthday of the distinguished spiritual leader, teacher and scholar, the Reverend Dr. Israel H. Levinthal.

It is most fitting that you pay such a tribute to a clergyman who has deserved so well of the congregation he has served, of American Jewry at large, and of the entire community. A man who is at the same time a scholar and a capable leader and an organizer has a rare combination of gifts. Dr. Levinthal is a fine embodiment of the highest type of Hebrew culture.

May he continue to serve as an inspiration to his people for many decades to come.

With kindest regards and best wishes.

THOMAS E. DEWEY,
Governor of New York.

ish Center to a crowded synagogue. People flock from far to hear him. He delivers not a speech, but a Derashah in the old-fashioned style. With rarely a deviation, he bases his sermon on the Sabbath and the Holy Days on the Sidra (portion) of the week. He takes a Ma'amar (verse from the Scriptures) and elucidates it with Talmudic Midrashic explanations. Like the Darshan (preacher) of former days he gives his sermon a "hidush" (novelty) and a "harifut" (sharpness). He employs illustrations, parables, allegories, and arguments from old Midrashic collections and from his comprehensive knowledge of secular branches of learning. His ingenious explanations of Biblical passages delight his hearers.

Dr. Levinthal's sermons, speeches and

discourses, on all occasions, teach an ethical and devotional lesson. Under his fine treatment the wonders and beauty of the Bible and Jewish history and religion assume a new grandeur and sanctity. He makes the audience feel that we need the wisdom and strength of Jewish civilization for guidance in life today. Torah—the Jewish tradition—is current coin, not a curio in a cabinet to be taken out for inspection on rare occasions. The ideals of the modern Jew can be realized in and through Torah. Torah has an immediate relation to and an immediate effect on man's conduct here and now.

Dr. Levinthal's career is a successful refutation of the argument that "whatever was good enough for our fathers is not good enough for us." In the Jewish

[Continued on page 23]

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION GREETES DR. LEVINTHAL

IT IS with a sense of deep personal pleasure that I take this opportunity to extend both my personal greetings and those of the Zionist Organization of America, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Dr. Israel H. Levinthal.

I count Dr. Levinthal among my closest friends and as a most valued associate in our common goal to build the Jewish State in Palestine.

No member of the Jewish community can fail to be aware of the great contribution he has made to the Brooklyn Jewish Center and to American Jewish life. Under his inspired and devoted leadership, the Brooklyn Jewish Center has become truly a center of Jewish life. It has nourished and developed the highest ethical and spiritual values in the community. Through it, he has helped bring Zionism to the ever-increasing numbers of American Jews.

Dr. Levinthal has served his people well during the long years of peace and bloodshed, hope and despair, frustration and realization. We hope that he will long continue to serve God and his people and to witness that day that will see our hopes and dreams realized.

DR. EMANUEL NEUMANN,
President, Zionist Organization of America.

I HAVE known Dr. Israel Herbert Levinthal so long and heard him speak so often in his synagogue, at public meetings, and on many other occasions that, trying to revive my impressions of him and to put them down in writing, it is difficult to point to any particular thought or utterance of his which would be typical or characteristic of the man and his work. But there is one incident which remains fresh and vivid in my mind, and to which, indeed, I love to return as often as the thought of Levinthal and his striking success in the American Jewish ministry comes to me.

The Jewish Theological Seminary was holding its annual commencement exercises about thirteen years ago and the occasion being simultaneous with Dr. Levinthal's twenty-fifth anniversary in the rabbinate, he was called upon to preach the sermon. With the brilliant sunshine of a June afternoon streaming into the auditorium, an impressive procession of members of the faculty, rabbis, and candidates for degrees gowned in their multi-colored academic robes, swung slowly towards the platform. The usual ceremonies incidental to such an event, were conducted with solemn dignity by Dr. Cyrus Adler, then the venerable head of the Seminary.

When Dr. Levinthal rose to speak, all eyes were upon him, and he was himself visibly affected. It was no easy task to preach in the presence of his teachers and masters for so many years, no light matter to offer counsel and advice to students and colleagues critical of his every word and gesture. The past twenty-five years must have rolled back in his mind when, on a similar occasion, it was not his voice that was raised in admonition, but that of the unforgettable Professor Solomon Schechter. This was a moment to make any man's heart tremble with fear and distrust of himself.

But once he began to speak, he was both master of himself and master of his audience. He began weakly and slowly, but soon his voice was clear and resonant, charged with a depth of feeling and unmistakable sincerity. He spoke a full hour, but not a word or thought he uttered was lost. There was no weariness among his listeners, only complete absorption. Even the older members of

ISRAEL HERBERT LEVINTHAL—AN INTERPRETATION

By JACOB S. MINKIN

the faculty, pretending indifference to ceremonial sermons, forgot themselves and stealthily lifted an eye to the speaker. It was not Levinthal alone who spoke that afternoon, but centuries of Jewish thought and conviction, and the generations of his rabbinical forebears.

This was one of the most memorable sermons. I have listened to many other addresses, and on similar occasions, but they were of the exhibitionist and pretentious kind, more pompous than enlightening, more platitudinous than instructive, in which half-learning was made to appear as learning, and quotations from the classics brought in to atone for the speaker's ignorance of the ancient sources of Jewish wisdom—the very opposite of what Dr. Levinthal was saying to the young rabbis before him.

In a magnificent stirring appeal, elegantly phrased and supported by the authority of the ancient Jewish masters, addressed both to the rabbi sitting in his presence and his colleagues all over the country, Dr. Levinthal, drawing upon his quarter of a century experience in the Jewish ministry, wove the pattern of the Jewish rabbi's work in facing a new world. "We are told," he said, "that the entire conception of the rabbinate's role must change. The rabbi is not to be what he was in ancient times; he must be something new, something altogether modern, to fit the new day and answer the new demands of this modern age. . . . But if change there must be, we first ought to make it clear to ourselves *from what* we want to depart and *at what* we want to aim."

He appealed to his colleagues to be the people's spiritual architects, the fashioners of the sanctuary of Jewish life. While it was the rabbi's duty to bring a message of hope and courage, it was his highest function to implant in the people the love of Torah. And with as much scorn as his gentle nature would permit, he castigated those of his brethren in the ministry who would make the pulpit a publicity medium for the latest Broadway show, popular novel or sensational news-

paper headline. "If the twenty-five years of my humble ministry have taught me anything," he emphasized, "it is this—that the masses of our people crave for Torah from the lips of their spiritual leaders. . . . A sermon that reviews a book, or that even presents a lesson in economics or politics, will not impress them, for in these fields you are not their authorities. . . . Today, even in the humblest synagogue, there are college graduates and men of culture who, no less than the rabbi, are familiar with the currents of modern life and thought. . . . You can and will impress them if you bring to them the message which the Torah, our rich and varied Hebrew literature, has to offer with reference to any of the vital problems that confront life today."

Because of his profound belief that in modern life there is no question, no issue, no vexing or perplexing problem which ancient Jewish wisdom cannot help to illuminate or solve, Dr. Levinthal affirmed, that, "The congregation has the right to expect the leader to be well versed in the fields of modern knowledge. . . . He must discuss the important issues and pressing problems that confront the entire world. But upon these discussions, he must bring the imprint of Torah; he must reveal what Judaism has to say upon all these manifold concerns that affect the life of the world today." With characteristic Schechterian insistence, uttered, indeed, on the day of the preacher's own ordination as a rabbi, Dr. Levinthal made the highest demands on his colleagues in the rabbinate. He called for a ministry of the mind and the heart, of piety and learning, wisdom and holiness.

I have singled out this one particular sermon of Dr. Levinthal from scores of others and secular addresses happily rescued for the future in three published volumes, not because it is so outstanding from the rest, but because, in my estimation, it is typical of the man, typical of his method, typical of his vision and out-

look and, in a large measure, indicates why he has held his unique place in the love and affection of his colleagues in the American Jewish ministry. In speaking to the rabbis, to his colleagues, he revealed himself, etching a more authentic image of himself than anyone could have done.

Dr. Levinthal might be made to figure in many lights, delineated in many aspects. As far as his interests and sympathies are concerned he is among the most versatile characters in the American rabbinate. He fought in many battles, championed many causes, sponsored many movements. No department of American Jewish spiritual and cultural life remained untouched or uninfluenced by him. In this country there are few more community-minded men than he. The footnotes to his sermons and addresses in the three published volumes, giving the time, place and occasion of their delivery, is almost the sum total of our American Jewish cultural and spiritual activity.

He speaks to laymen and he speaks to rabbis, in his own pulpit and from many another pulpit and platform throughout the land. Wherever there are hearts to be inspired, minds to be enlightened, and men and women to be won for their faith and people, there Levinthal is a familiar, loved figure. He is as known in Canada as he is in the United States, as admired and respected in the South and West as he is in his own community. Zionist gatherings are flattered by his appearance, Hebrew cultural audiences listen to him with rapt attention, noisy conventions are silenced by his voice, and he brings peace and harmony to disputatious rabbinical assemblies.

What is the power of this man Levinthal? What are his qualities, faculties or talents which surround him everywhere with an atmosphere of love and devotion? The answer lies not in his physical appearance, nor in any dramatic, spectacular act. Looking at Dr. Levinthal's picture before me as I write, his face has no particularly arresting features. His eyes behind his spectacles are kind and mild, but not strong or penetrating; there is a distinguished, aristocratic quality to his mien and features, revealing the scholar or preacher, but it is not of the overpowering kind. Jewish audiences are

stern judges, starkly critical, and are not easily beguiled by such accidental things as a man's pose or appearance.

Dr. Levinthal is unquestionably an effective speaker. Even as a very young man, when still in his student days, he won a medal for excellence in oratory. His voice warm and refined, and what gestures he chooses to employ, are of the kind to win sympathy and confidence of his hearers. Nevertheless, he is not the picturesque, dramatic orator who overwhelms an audience with the magic and power of his eloquence. He discusses his subject with clarity, vigor and insight, but not with that intensity of feeling and emotion which would affect one to a point of self-forgetfulness. He is neither reckless nor impetuous, neither rash nor defiant. His oratorical style is not of the "prophetic" school of speakers. There is more light than heat in what he says or preaches. He is more expository than creative, illuminating and instructive rather than challenging. He makes use of none of the deceptive tricks which make an orator the "darling" of his audience—the mystic look, the sweeping gesture, the holiday tone of voice.

If Dr. Levinthal has maintained himself in the Jewish ministry with such power and distinction for so long a time, preached in one of the greatest pulpits in this country for nearly a generation, and won the acclaim and admiration of his friends and colleagues as did few other men in the rabbinate, it is because the secret of the man lies in the quality of his preaching, in his high personal integrity, and in the lofty conception he early formed of the position and power of the Jewish pulpit in the moral and spiritual life of the people, and exemplified it in his own nearly forty years of service.

When the romance of the American Jewish pulpit, its vision and power, its influence and accomplishments, will one day be told, the part played by Dr. Levinthal will loom large. Until his coming, the sermon was the feeblest staff Jews could lean on in preparation for their spiritual future. It neither instructed nor inspired, neither saved nor served Jews in their struggle for religious and cultural survival. In the orthodox synagogue, the pulpit was a negligible factor; either it was silent altogether or, when it made it-

self vocal, it was in a language that was incomprehensible to the younger members of the congregation. And while in the reformist temple floods of oratory resounded, it was not the kind of preaching Jews could depend upon to sustain them in their religious yearnings and convictions. Sermons were preached, but the texts were as often from Thoreau, Emerson, and Walt Whitman as from Hillel, Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai, and Rabbi Akiba.

Rabbi Levinthal attempted what seemed the impossible. He rediscovered the clear bright flame that shone in the ancient sources of Jewish wisdom. No new voice from heaven was needed. It was there where Jews always knew it existed. For a thousand years and more, an entire people had poured its life and devotion into the thousands of pages of the Talmud and the Midrash. They are life; they are real, not faded parchments of the past. They are the immortal spirit of the Jew. Their lesson, their message, their admonition is for today, tomorrow, and for all time. "Whatever a wise disciple shall ever teach in the presence of his rabbi, the Holy One had already made known unto Moses on Sinai." In brief, there is a great, rich, and illuminating tradition of incomparable wisdom and eloquence which needs but to be mined from its hidden depths and interpreted to make it shine in its exquisite beauty and splendor.

The originality of Rabbi Levinthal's method and manner of preaching consists in the fact that he is the least original of his American rabbinical colleagues. He invented nothing; he only harked back to a style and philosophy of preaching that was practised by Jewish pulpit orators for probably two thousand years. Listening to him, or reading his sermons in print, one feels oneself transported to the academies of Sura and Pumbedita or to the Jewish preaching guilds of later centuries, when a verse from the Bible was minutely, almost microscopically, dissected and analyzed for what bearing it might have upon contemporary problems and conditions. Sometimes he may seem involved over imaginative, sometimes too literal or excessive in following the talmudic or midrashic rule of interpretation. But the essential Jewish spirit

and its great cultural heritage is never wanting in what he says or writes.

Dr. Levinthal contributed mightily to the saving of the prestige of the synagogue. He made his pulpit conspicuously Jewish and filled his sermons with conspicuously Jewish content. He found that in the hearts of the average Jewish men and women are Jewish instincts, deeply-imbedded love for Jewish things, Jewish memories, and a hunger for knowledge quite apart from that to be derived from the popular novel and play. He also discovered that, being modern men and women, American Jews are acutely aware of the social, economic and political forces which shape their lives. Dr. Levinthal exploited both these discoveries by proving to the men and women of his congregation, and to thousands outside his synagogue, that for centuries Jewish sages and thinkers had grappled and wrestled with just such problems as perplex and puzzle the modern mind and arrived at conclusions and solutions which would be well for our world to know.

He was more than successful. He became the accredited ambassador of ancient Jewish lore and wisdom to a world that was poorly aware of their existence. He carried the message across the land. By publishing his sermons he extended the area of his influence far beyond his own pulpit. Indeed, Levinthal is the first American rabbi to make books of sermons excellent sellers. Rabbis of all shades of religious opinion forgot about the homiletics they had studied in their seminaries and devoted themselves to Levinthal.

So far, little has been said about the literary artistry of Levinthal's preaching, the artistry that consists of gathering up ideas, impressions, characteristics in a few brilliant flashes. In the Jewish pulpit, this writer knows of only one man who was so gifted with that capacity—the late Dr. Adolf Yellinek of Vienna. In Levinthal pulpit artistry has reached a level rarely attained before. We could quote many examples of his graceful prose, his sensitive feeling for words and figures of speech, but it will suffice to point to his memorial tribute to the mystic-philosopher Abraham Isaac Kook, the late Chief Rabbi

of Palestine. This writer knows no finer and more penetrating characterization of this great man's learning and wisdom, patriotism and saintliness, (unless it be the book that recently appeared on the subject), than Dr. Levinthal's brief memorial address, written with love and understanding, insight and devotion.

Dr. Israel Levinthal has crowned his nearly forty years in the Jewish ministry with high purpose, noble idealism, and historic achievement. He has broken

a path which has now become a highway for his colleagues to follow. He is one of the few rabbis in the country who did not allow themselves to become narrowed. He serves his congregation and he serves his friends, but his range of vision includes all Israel. His heart aches for them all, his spirit rejoices with them all, his love and devotion embraces them all. May his years of service to his faith and people increase and multiply so that he be a blessing unto them!

THE RABBI FACES A NEW WORLD

This is an excerpt from the address discussed by Rabbi Minkin in his article on Dr. Levinthal. It was given at the graduation exercises of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America on June 2, 1935, and is included in Dr. Levinthal's book, "A New World Is Born."

LIKE Solomon of old, the true leader of today must pray: *Chokmah U'Madda Ten Li*, "Oh grant me wisdom of the Torah and knowledge of the world!" But though this secular knowledge is essential, the leader must ever remember the advice of Maimonides, that science—for the Rabbi must be the handmaid of Torah, nor a substitute for Torah. The great pity in Jewish life—so far as the Rabbinate is concerned—is just this, that many have made the Torah the handmaid of science, and science the substitute for Torah. And that, in itself, is the reason for the loss of the prestige of the Rabbi in the eyes of the multitude of our people.

We seem to forget that conditions in our congregational life have vitally changed in the last twenty-five years. A quarter of a century ago it was a novelty—at least in the synagogues of the traditional school—for a Rabbi to speak English. Many of the congregants could not read or speak the language of the land, and hence the greatest respect was shown to the preacher who could exhibit *Daat*—a knowledge of modern literature science, art and economics. But today, even in the humblest synagogue, there are college graduates and men of culture who,

no less than the Rabbi, are familiar with the currents of modern life and thought. To them, the Rabbi who reveals this knowledge is no longer a marvel; but he is a marvel to them if he exhibits a familiarity with the teachings of our Torah. A sermon that reviews a book or a play, or that even presents a lesson in economics or politics, will not impress them, for in the fields you are not their authorities. You can and you will impress them if you bring to them the message which the Torah, our rich and varied Hebrew literature, has to offer with reference to any of the vital problems that confront life today.

I do not mean to minimize the value of *Daat* as a prerequisite of Jewish leadership. The congregation has a right to expect the leader to be well versed in the fields of modern knowledge; the Rabbi, if he is to serve his people's needs well, must be acquainted with the results of research in the arts and sciences of our day. He must discuss the important issues and pressing problems that confront the entire world. But upon these discussions he must put the imprint of Torah; he must reveal what Judaism has to say upon all these manifold concerns that affect the life of humanity today.

If I may be permitted to give a new meaning to the classic words of the prophet I should say: "The lips of the priest shall guard *Daat*, knowledge"—they must be familiar with all the trends of secular life—*V'Torah Yevaskushu Mipibn* "But it is the Torah that the people will seek from his mouth!" . . .

A WONDERFUL LIFE WITH FATHER

By Helen L. Lyons
and Lazar E. Levinthal

WE HAVE tried very hard to evaluate our father objectively so that this article will not merely repeat the customary clichés of filial respect and devotion due a parent. But even evaluating dad objectively we are forced to conclude that he is better-natured than anyone we have ever known—more considerate of the feelings of others than anyone we have known, and by far the most understanding father ever known. More than this, we consider dad our friend, and friendship is not something to be taken for granted between parent and child.

Being his children, we are of course in a position to tell so much about your rabbi, and yet, probably nothing we say will surprise those who have met him even once. He is a genuinely sweet and kindly person, and he remains sweet and kind whether serving the community as rabbi, or his family as father and husband.

There are many details about our dad which might be considered unimportant, but actually these are the very things people are most anxious to know. He is, for example, an unusually fastidious person, and is immaculate both in his dress and personal habits.

He dresses well; a man who takes pride in looking well groomed, but a lavish display of haberdashery would be inconsistent with his essentially simple way of life. His neatness extends even to the care of his hands, which always look beautiful and well cared for. His taste in neckties is conservative, as you would expect. It was only recently that he succumbed to family pressure and wore a foulard pattern with a touch of red. This was soon followed by a paisley with more red. A recent attempt to foist a striped tie on him failed because one of the stripes was of a brighter shade of red. Dad is so good-natured though, that if we really urged him to wear it, he would have undoubtedly put it on to please us.

Dad is neat in general. His clothing closets would warm the cockles of a first sergeant's heart. His knack of doing things in an orderly manner has earned for him not only the family's respect and admiration, but recognition as the family's official suitcase-packer. It is difficult for us to reconcile father's aptitude for packing a valise with the methodical precision of a true scientist and his general in-

ability to cope with such mechanical bafflers as the can-opener, electric socket or the snapshot camera.

Planning meals for dad is a relatively simple task. He has a long list of foods he won't touch, foods he would prefer were not even served in his presence. But those foods which he does eat will not bore him no matter how often they are placed before him. Two boiled eggs at lunch could be served daily for weeks and we doubt that he would complain. A partial list of the foods dad has black-listed include squash, turnips, bananas and tomatoes. Incidentally, he loves tomato soup, juice and ketchup. He has a sensitive nose and will detect and abhor anything that has had a nodding acquaintance with garlic.

Until recently, we never knew dad to eat canned salmon. It is only within the last year that he sampled and seemed to enjoy it. Needless to say, this was a big

day for our family and the event was discussed with much the same interest and enthusiasm as was the Truman Doctrine.

Those of you who have had occasion to observe your rabbi at a kiddush or a wedding may have classified him as a "nasher." We confirm it, but in his defense, let it be known that he nashes with a guilt complex. This you can detect by his comment as he takes the sweet, "I really shouldn't."

Few people enjoy hearing a good joke as much as father does, but oddly enough he never tells jokes. He is an excellent teller of stories and we know that he would have made a wonderful actor. He will often return home from a gathering and recount an amusing incident which occurred. His gestures, facial expressions



Rabbi and Mrs. Israel Herbert Levinthal, from a very informal snapshot taken by a friend of the family.

and imitations easily capture the full flavor of the incident. He is a master of the art of mimicking.

One of dad's unusual characteristics is his ability to analyze a situation or a problem from all angles, and to clarify it colorfully and succinctly. Many is the time when a group of friends have been gathered in our living room and a heated discussion would ensue. The nature of the discussion matters little; be it secular or religious, dad will invariably say little or nothing until the argument has reached a degree of heat. At the crucial moment he will clear his throat, smack his lips and automatically the room will be quiet and all eyes turn to dad. With extraordinary calm he will outline briefly the arguments that have been presented for both sides and then—and this is his unusual ability—he will present his own argument, an argument which goes deeper and more to the heart of the issue than all the others. Those present will invariably admit by their silent nodding that dad's point is well taken.

Dad must have been a fair athlete. We recall his love for tennis, but this was some years ago. He is still a good swimmer, although not very fast. His favorite stroke is a variation of the breast stroke wherein he substitutes the customary "glide" for a series of short frog-like kicks, making certain to pucker his lips and raise the eyebrows at the same time. He doesn't dive but prefers to use the ladder, inch by inch. He also likes walking and ping-pong, but these are all summer activities. Mother is really the athlete of the family; she can easily outswim dad, and is more than his match at ping-pong.

Father has no hobbies. His time is well taken up with meetings, preparing sermons and speeches, sick calls, weddings, funerals and callers of all varieties. Dad meets hundreds of people each week, and it would tax the memory of an expert to recall their names. Unfortunately, dad is no expert and is constantly harassed by the woman who is surprised and coyly disappointed that Rabbi Levinthal doesn't remember her. After all, he did officiate at her sister-in-law's wedding in 1937!

A free evening at home is a great luxury to father, and he will usually announce to the family, "To-night I am going to relax, like a millionaire, and

read!" He loves to read history, biography and books touching on Jewish affairs. His prolific reading has given him a tremendous fund of general knowledge. There are, however, several aspects of our contemporary culture that are still beyond his grasp. To illustrate, we doubt strongly dad's ability to explain fully the role of a fallback in our complex society, or to explain adequately the common phrase, "Win, Place or Show." We have it on reliable authority that when father was asked recently at a gathering whether he wanted a Tom Collins he replied, "Who?"

It might be noted at this point that dad does not smoke, nor does he drink anything stronger than the Tokay wine used at our Sabbath kiddush.

Dad loves the theater, but here too, his rabbinical duties afford him very few opportunities for its enjoyment. He is so deeply emotional that he both laughs

and cries easily at the theater or cinema. In life, too, he is visibly affected by the problems that are brought to him, which undoubtedly are responsible for many a gray hair.

We have tried to portray for you an intimate picture of our dad. We know that the portrait lacks much of the color and depth of his lovable personality. This, not only because there are so many aspects to the man but because writing about father alone is difficult when all our lives we have associated mother and dad as a team. Few men have been so blessed as to have found in their life's partner the deep and abiding love which is so evident to all who know mother and dad. Never does one leave the house without the other whispering in Yiddish their heart's prayer, "*Gey gezundt, Kum gezundt.*"

EDITORIAL

Through Prayer, Pressure and Power

WE ARE told in the Book of Esther that Haman cast lots (Purim) for twelve months before he decided to execute his sinister plan of Jewish extermination. Similarly, the United Nations have been toying with the future of our people for almost a year, casting lots, making decisions and unmaking them. During this historic period the scales of fate have been tipped to our advantage, as on that fateful day of November 29th when the United Nations registered approval of the Partition Plan, or they have been drawn almost irresistibly against the establishment of the Jewish State, as in the present sessions of the Security Council. If the lots should finally and irrevocably be cast against us, our modern Hamans believe that they will have condemned the Yishuv to the status of a ghetto and that they will have succeeded in dooming the Jews of Europe to languish in D.P. camps, forever prey to the evil machinations and whims of future tyrants, dictators and anti-Semites.

There can be little doubt that the nations of the World will profoundly affect our future by the lots they cast and the decisions they reach. However, our people have never succumbed nor bowed

to the destiny outlined for us by our foes. We have survived in spite of evil decrees and edicts, because we were able to muster enough spiritual power and strength to defy them.

Once again as in the days of Mordecai and Esther, we must rally to upset and frustrate the schemes of our enemies. We must take action to shape our own fate and to mould our own destiny. We too, must cast our own lots by using every conceivable means at our disposal—prayer, pressure and power—to tilt the scales of destiny in our favor. Only then will the conspiracy against us be destroyed and these days of discouragement and dismay be transformed into joy and gladness for Israel and all mankind.

—MANUEL SALTZMAN.

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DR. STEPHEN S. WISE.

• I have much pleasure in learning that the Brooklyn Jewish Center will celebrate the sixtieth birthday anniversary of my beloved friend, Dr. Israel H. Levinthal. I am glad, too, to learn that the March issue of the *Brooklyn Jewish Center Review* is to be dedicated to him and the celebration which the Congregation is to have.

It is commonplace and repetitious for me to say again that I have long considered Dr. Levinthal one of the finest and most serviceable and significant men in the American Rabbinate. He has much Jewish learning; he has a deep human friendliness and he is a true Rabbi as well as an extraordinarily effective preacher. If I knew how to say more about him, I would; and I shall have occasion to do so upon a special occasion in the not remote future.

RABBI ISRAEL M. GOLDMAN, President, Rabbinical Assembly of America.

• The celebration of the sixtieth birthday of Dr. Israel Herbert Levinthal, the revered and beloved Rabbi of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, is a source of rejoicing and pride to the whole of the American Jewish community. We, his devoted colleagues and admiring friends in the Rabbinical Assembly of America, serving in communities all over the United States and Canada, are particularly pleased to take note of this significant event since Dr. Levinthal is one of our most distinguished members and one of the rarest gems in the crown of the American Rabbinate.

Dr. Levinthal is one of the master-builders of Conservative Judaism in America. As an honored former President of the Rabbinical Assembly, he has throughout his notable rabbinate carried into effect its exalted purpose, which is stated in its constitution in these significant words:

"To promote traditional Judaism, to advance the cause of Jewish learning; to co-operate with the Jewish Theological Seminary and the United Synagogue; and to foster the spirit

of fellowship among the Rabbis and other Jewish scholars of America."

These lofty aims Dr. Levinthal has served with his great God-given talents so that now he stands forth as one of the great banner-bearers of the Jewish religious tradition in modern times.

While Dr. Levinthal has achieved distinction in many fields of Jewish leadership, he is pre-eminently known as the preacher *par excellence* in American Jewish life. Through his crystal-clear mind and silver-tongued eloquence there are combined the ancient tradition of Jewish preaching and the modern needs of Jewish living. To him as to few others in the American Rabbinate, the time-hallowed springs of Jewish wisdom are drawn upon to bring forth timeless and refreshing truths. In the pulpit he is the master who has many followers but no equals.

It is a source of special rejoicing that his greatest work was achieved through the Brooklyn Jewish Center, which Dr. Levinthal, together with the support of enlightened lay leadership, has made into one of the renowned strongholds for Jewish life in this country. His congregants know him and love him as Rabbi, preacher, scholar, author, Zionist spokesman, civic leader, communal guide, and personal friend.

Dr. Levinthal's colleagues in the Rabbinical Assembly know that the following words of the Psalmist fittingly describe his life and career:

"I have preached righteousness in the great Congregation,
Lo, I did not refrain my lips;
O, Lord, Thou knowest.
I have not hid Thy righteousness within my heart,
I have declared Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation"

Dr. Levinthal's hundreds of friends and colleagues in the Rabbinical Assembly of America rejoice in sending this word of greeting on his sixtieth birthday and unite in extending to him and to his dear family every good wish for many more decades of good health and useful service to God, to Israel and to Torah.

MORRIS ROTHENBERG, President, Jewish National Fund.

• I extend warm greetings to Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday.

With his heritage of Jewish learning and spirituality, with his own great attributes of scholarship and eloquence, and with his profound knowledge of his people's psychology and needs, Rabbi Levinthal has exercised a potent and lasting influence not only upon his own congregation but upon the entire American Jewish community. In the Zionist movement, Rabbi Levinthal has been a thinker and a leader of great distinction, illuminating Jewish aspirations with eloquence and incisiveness.

May Rabbi Levinthal long continue in the full vigor of his powers his outstanding contributions to the civic ideals of our country and towards the realization of the ideals of the Jewish people.

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN, President, United Palestine Appeal.

• There are few men in the American Rabbinate whose ministry has made as deep an impression as that of Dr. Israel Herbert Levinthal. His has been a rare combination of gifts—gentleness in personal relations coupled with firmness of principle, scholarship coupled with popular appeal, complete at home-ness in the American environment coupled with deep roots in the tradition of Judaism, commitment to political Zionism coupled with fervent espousal of its spiritual content, mastery of the Jewish word coupled with Mitzvah, the power of Jewish deed. No rabbi in America has done more to uplift his community and to make of it a power for good in American Judaism.

In following Rabbi Levinthal's leadership the Brooklyn Jewish Center has become a leader and a standard-bearer in the vineyard of American Israel.

At the age of sixty, Rabbi Levinthal is an ever fresh inspiration to his colleagues, in the art of expounding Sacred Script and interpreting American Judaism. I deem it a privilege to be counted in the abundant company of his colleagues who rise and call him blessed.

On behalf of the United Palestine Appeal, I am happy to record the unanimous gratitude of those who have dedicated themselves to Palestine's upbuilding for his lifelong devotion to *binyan ha-eretz u'techiyath ha-am*.

When the Jewish State, please God, is established, Rabbi Levinthal's will be the deep reward of knowing that he has been one of the builders.

May he be granted many more years of fruitful labor.

DR. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

● I am proud to be included in the great company of those who will join hand and heart in the celebration of the sixtieth birthday anniversary of Dr. Israel H. Levinthal.

My first thought of Dr. Levinthal is that of a friend, tried and true. He is the most hospitable of men, the most thoughtful and kindly of colleagues. He has a golden heart.

Then comes the thought of Dr. Levinthal's tireless and highly successful work as a rabbi. The Brooklyn Jewish Center is a great monument to his achievement, his power of leadership, his devotion and his mastery of the arts of personal and public service. I never visit the Center without marveling that one man, year after year, can administer and direct the life of that veritable hive of human activity, and still remain serene, cheerful and courageous.

Lastly, I think of Dr. Levinthal as a scholar. There are books of his, and the gifts of his generous hand, here on my library shelves, which I cherish as among the great religious books of our time. Jewish rabbis have ever been notable for their learning, and Dr. Levinthal maintains the great tradition.

Dr. Levinthal is still young, at least he is not yet old, but he is approaching the time when he will need special care and consideration, kindly services of helpfulness and co-operation, the unflinching concern of his congregation for his health and abiding strength. I know that the people of the Center, grateful for all that Dr. Levinthal has done for them, will draw close about him these days in true and deep affection and together hold up his hands.

DR. WENDELL L. FIFIELD, Plymouth Church.

● I am very glad to join with others in paying tribute to Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. I was greatly surprised, in view of his activity, to learn that he had reached this milestone in his experience. I would not have judged from his personality that he had reached three score.

His contribution, not alone to his own institution, but also to the civic and religious life of our borough, and even beyond our borough, has been a conspicuous and outstanding one.

On behalf of the Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims, as well as myself, I am glad of this opportunity to extend our congratulations and very best wishes.

J. W. HOOPER, Brooklyn Chapter Chairman, The American National Red Cross.

● We of the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Red Cross are proud to join the people of Brooklyn in honoring the sixtieth birthday of one of our city's outstanding spiritual and civic leaders Dr. Israel H. Levinthal.

As a member of the Brooklyn Chapter's Board of Directors Dr. Levinthal has exhibited rare qualities of leadership and a humble spirit of selflessness in planning programs for the public good.

Similarly, in all his many endeavors Rabbi Levinthal has always demonstrated the devotion to all people, regardless of race, creed or color that marks the truly exceptional citizen.

On his sixtieth birthday, we extend our warmest greetings to our fellow-member, and congratulate the Brooklyn Jewish Center for their good fortune in having as their spiritual leader this great fellow-citizen beloved by all of us.

MENACHEM RIBALOV, Editor, Hadoar.

● The *Hadoar* sends its heartiest congratulations to Dr. Israel H. Levinthal. He has been one of its proud and honored standard-bearers.

By virtue of his gifted qualities his eloquent preaching, which stems from a mastery of the Midrash and his winning personality, he occupies a special place in American Jewish life. To know him is

to admire him, not only because of his kindly temperament, but also because of what he represents—a love of the old and the new, an ideal synthesis of our ancient Torah and of our modern culture. Modern Hebrew, which derives its life-blood from our ageless Torah, has found an enthusiastic supporter in Dr. Levinthal. Devotedly he has served the cause of Hebrew, knowing full well that the revival of Hebrew literature and the Hebrew press is indispensable to the spiritual revival of our people.

It is for this reason that he was among the first to respond to the call of the *Hadoar* when it was yet in its infancy, and to work for its continued existence. Dr. Levinthal, together with Joseph Barondess, of blessed memory, helped found the "Committee to Help the *Hadoar*," which has recently been renamed the "Friends of the *Hadoar*." Its efforts enabled the *Hadoar* to maintain itself for the past 27 years—a record not equaled by any other Hebrew periodical in America.

For more than two decades, Dr. Levinthal has steadfastly devoted himself to this sacred task, thus setting an example which has inspired others. He has demonstrated that Hebrew in America is the concern not only of the chosen few—Hebrew authors and readers—but of all Jews who wish to perpetuate the spirit of Judaism wherever Jews are to be found. Now that we stand at the threshold of the Jewish state, we see the vindication of the Hebraic ideal.

We join with those who celebrate Rabbi Levinthal's sixtieth birthday and offer the prayer that God will bless him with many more years of health and strength so that he will be enabled to continue his service in behalf of our Torah, our culture and the freedom of our people.

RABBI THEODORE N. LEWIS, President of New York Board of Rabbis.

● On behalf of the New York Board of Rabbis, it is a pleasure to extend greetings to Dr. Israel H. Levinthal upon attaining his sixtieth birthday.

His colleagues in the rabbinate rejoice that the rare privilege has been vouchsafed unto Dr. Levinthal to render distinguished service over a long and trying

period to Israel, to our beloved land and to mankind.

The high and lofty rabbinic standards which Dr. Levinthal follows have served to raise the status of the American rabbinat and to further the welfare of American Israel. His active participation in the Jewish life of our city, his ardent Zionist labors, his devotion to the cause of Jewish education, his civic-mindedness, have inspired and challenged our people to ever higher levels of living. His masterful preaching, his eloquent interpretation of Biblical and rabbinic literature, his skill as a homilist have demonstrated for our generation of Jews the beauty, truth and eternity of Israel's Torah, its unsurpassed excellence as a guide for the whole human family.

On this, his sixtieth birthday, his colleagues in the ministry greet him with the fervent prayer that the Almighty may vouchsafe unto him, His faithful servant, physical strength and length of days, that He may grant him the rich reward which he has so justly earned, to the end that he may continue to labor zealously and fruitfully in the vineyard of the Lord, to the greater glory of our God, our Torah and our people Israel — *Ad Meah V'Esrin Shanah!*

BROOKLYN BOARD OF RABBIS —

Rabbi A. Alan Steinbach, President; Rabbi Isadore A. Aaron, Vice-President; Rabbi D. Bernard Stolper, Vice-President; Rabbi Theodore S. Ross, Vice-President; Rabbi Maxwell L. Sacks, Treasurer; Rabbi Manuel Saltzman, Secretary.

• The Brooklyn Board of Rabbis deems it a privilege to extend greetings and felicitations on the celebration of the sixtieth birthday of our revered friend and colleague, Dr. Israel H. Levinthal. As one of the founders and first President of our Board, Dr. Levinthal has wielded an influence for good that is far beyond compute. His inspiration and guidance have been our "Pillar of Fire" throughout the years of our existence, and we are grateful to the Almighty for having reflected so much of Himself in this great leader in Israel.

Every Rabbi in our Board joins in the fervent prayer that Israel and America,

as well as the Brooklyn Jewish Center, will for many years remain the beneficiaries of the great gifts of heart, mind and spirit Dr. Levinthal possesses in such rich abundance.

LOUIS LIPSKY

• The kind of a man a rabbi becomes is largely determined by the model he chooses to emulate. All his life Rabbi Levinthal has chosen to be a preacher and teacher. He wanted to be a guide to the members of his congregation. At all times he has spoken with a keen desire to know the truth before speaking and he found truth in Jewish tradition and in the teaching of the Sages. He seems always to be guided by the desire to walk in the footsteps of the Sages whose wisdom he undertook to interpret to his congregation. To hear him preach is to have an opportunity to look into the mirror of Jewish wisdom. He has shown in all his work that character and integrity is more important than the resonance of sermons, that unless a rabbi reveals in his daily life the quality of the religion he professes, his sermons are merely oratorical exercises of indifferent value.

Thus, after a lifetime of devotion, the influence of Rabbi Levinthal extends beyond his congregation and beyond the borough in which he lives. He is known and valued in wide Zionist circles and among all American Jews who prize tradition and Jewish ideals. He personifies the glowing influence of a living Judaism.

As one who believes in the superior function of the rabbi and that moral leadership in Jewish life can come only from rabbis who are true to the calling, I pay tribute to Rabbi Levinthal as rabbi and as Jew, and wish him a long life of unimpaired service to his people.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, Brooklyn Region, Benjamin G. Browdy, President.

• The Brooklyn Region of the Zionist Organization of America is happy to join the Brooklyn Jewish Center in honoring its distinguished Rabbi, Israel H. Levinthal on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday.

In common with all of Brooklyn Jewry, Brooklyn Zionists are indebted to Rabbi

Levinthal for many years of inspired leadership in the great tradition of Jewish history during periods of both Jewish crisis and Jewish opportunity.

The Brooklyn Zionist Region has now emerged as the numerically largest organization of Brooklyn Jewry. In its career of service to Israel, this organization could not have made such signal progress were it not for the great contributions of Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal as president. His tenure of office was characterized by brilliant and forthright leadership and great initiative.

On his sixtieth birthday, the Brooklyn Zionist Region extends to this eminent son of Israel reverential felicitations, and looks forward to many more years of active and intimate association with him and his congregation.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA, Samuel Rothstein, President; Albert I. Gordon, Executive Director.

• We are delighted to hear that the Brooklyn Jewish Center will pay its tribute to your revered spiritual leader, Dr. Israel Herbert Levinthal, on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday.

We of the United Synagogue of America are delighted to join with the host of friends and co-workers of Dr. Levinthal in paying our respects to him on this important milestone of his life.

Dr. Levinthal has been the Rabbi of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, but in a wider sense, he has been a Rabbi to American Jewry. His words, both oral and written, have been listened to and read with grateful appreciation by rabbinical and lay leaders throughout this land. He who is so steeped in Jewish lore has been a source of inspiration not only to his own congregation but to the United Synagogue of America as well. Through the United Synagogue, he has served the cause of traditional Judaism on a national scale, and we shall always feel deeply indebted to him.

May the years that lie ahead be bright for him and his dear ones, and may he and you who are his congregants continue to work together in the Vineyard of the Lord.

BROOKLYN JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL, Maximilian Moss, Pres.

• The Brooklyn Jewish Community Council, representing 850 constituent organizations and speaking on behalf of approximately one million Jews of Brooklyn, extends to Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal its warm affection on his sixtieth birthday. The Brooklyn Jewish Center is also to be congratulated on the inspiring leadership which Rabbi Levinthal has given to it over the years.

This occasion has real meaning for Community Councils, since they have benefited so greatly from the wisdom, statesmanship and counsel which Rabbi Levinthal has unstintingly given to this movement from its inception. We hail our first President, our valued Trustee and our present Honorary President.

The entire community of Brooklyn, Jews and non-Jews alike, feels honored to have Rabbi Levinthal as its distinguished citizen. His inspiration and courage have contributed significantly to the ideals and aspirations not only of Brooklyn but to other communities throughout the nation.

We wish Dr. Levinthal continued happiness and look forward to his future achievements.

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,

Dr. Simon Greenberg, Provost.

• It is a joy indeed to greet Dr. Levinthal on his sixtieth birthday. I do so not merely as one who has personally treasured his friendship, admired his character and ability and benefited by his teaching and example. I am, fortunately, privileged to speak also in behalf of the faculties and Board of our beloved Alma Mater, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. They all join his hosts of friends throughout the country in thanking God that American Israel was blessed by his leadership.

Dr. Levinthal has, indeed, exemplified at their highest the qualities that American Israel hopes to find in its spiritual leaders. High moral character, persistent and fruitful scholarly interests, despite the tremendous pressure of his numerous other duties, wisdom and kindness as a counselor of his people, active leadership in the manifold communal activities

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"JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES"

"בינינו לבין עצמנו"

An Intimate Chat Between Rabbi and Reader

A QUIZ FOR YOUR FAITH

IT HAS become quite popular among the current periodicals and magazines to publish intelligence and character quizzes.

Recently a Rabbi in Boston—Rabbi Beryl Cohon—prepared such a questionnaire on Jewish living. The test was published in a recent issue of *Liberal Judaism*, and republished in many Synagogue and Temple publications.

The purpose of this quiz is to test, for your own knowledge, your rating as a Jew—how you fulfill your Jewish obligations to your children, to your community, to your fellow-Jews throughout the world, to the Synagogue, to your Faith.

It is an excellent opportunity to take stock of yourself. And I am reprinting this quiz, in slightly modified form, in the hope that every reader of the *Center Review* will give himself and herself this self-examination.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Part I—The Home.

- ☐ 1. Does the wife kindle the Sabbath lights? (4 points)
- ☐ 2. Does she kindle the festival lights? (4 points)
- ☐ 3. Does the father say a word of prayer or make Kiddush? (4 points)
- ☐ 4. Are the Sabbath and the festivals respected in the home in actual practice, e.g., refraining from work, noisy games, etc.; reading a Jewish book, etc.? (4 points)
- ☐ 5. Is grace spoken before meals or a prayer after meals? (4 points)
- ☐ 6. On Passover, do you have a Seder? (4 points)
- ☐ 7. On the Sabbath and holidays, do the children attend synagogue services, accompanied by at least one adult, preferably a parent? (4 points)
- ☐ 8. On Hanukah are the lights kindled and the blessings spoken? (4 points)

- ☐ 9. Are there Jewish books in your home? Are they read? Is there a prayer book? Bible? (4 points)
- ☐ 10. Does a good Jewish periodical come to your home (besides the *Center Review*)? (4 points)
- ☐ 11. Are there Jewish symbols in your home—M'zuzo, menorah, candlesticks, kiddush cup, ceremonial dish, etc.? (4 points)
- ☐ 12. Do you discuss Jewish matters respectfully in the hearing of your children? (4 points)

Part II—The Synagogue.

- ☐ 1. Do you belong to a synagogue? (5 points)
- ☐ 2. Do you attend services?
a—regularly (5 points)
b—occasionally (2 points)
c—on High Holy Days only (1 point)
- ☐ 3. Are your children in a synagogue school?
a—Hebrew week-day classes (4 points)
b—Sunday morning school (2 points)
c—Do they receive good private instruction? (3 points)
- ☐ 4. Do you belong to the auxiliary bodies of the congregation and are you reasonably active? (Sisterhood, Adult Classes, Discussion Groups, etc.) (4 points)

Part III—The Community

- ☐ 1. Do you consider yourself a good citizen beyond the mere requirements of the law? Interested in political, social, cultural welfare of community? (13 points)
- ☐ 2. Are you an integrated person in the life of the Jewish community, contributing your honorable share to the philanthropic and cultural institutions that sustain our Jewish life, e.g., the

[Continued on page 23]

NEWS OF THE MONTH

THE formation of a Chamber of Commerce in the U. S. for Palestine is urged in a report published by the United Palestine Appeal recently, establishing that "Jewish Palestine and the United States can form a reciprocal trade partnership in which the Jewish state would purchase at least \$50,000,000 to \$70,000,000 annually of American goods."

ONE of Palestine's greatest problems, the procurement of water suitable for drinking and irrigation purposes, is now in the process of solution, according to an announcement by the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science. Despite the present situation in the country, scientists of the Institute continue to devote themselves to the long-range problems of Palestine.

U. S. REVERSAL OF PALESTINE PARTITION

ON FRIDAY, March 19th, the world was stunned by an act of betrayal on the part of our Government in its abandonment of Palestine Partition, through its spokesman at the Security Council, Sen. Warren Austin.

There is imperative need that every American citizen should clearly understand the full significance of the administration's policy with respect to Palestine. An editorial which appeared in the *N. Y. Times* of March 21st will help illuminate the understanding of anyone who may still be unable or unwilling to appreciate how great an injustice this act is to the Jewish people and to the world generally, which staked its hope in the United Nations. Even the *N. Y. Times*, whose policy toward Zionism may be characterized as unsympathetic, cannot escape the grim conclusion that the government's new policy on Palestine is an astounding exhibition of "ineptness". We believe that the American people concur with the *N. Y. Times'* arraignment that the Truman administration has lowered the dignity of America and the character of its government. It is the right and the duty of every American citizen to denounce and protest against the administration because "the prestige of American foreign policy has suffered a severe blow in the handling of this (Palestine) issue", and for having "played a shabby trick on the Jewish community in Palestine".

We, therefore, reprint the *Times* editorial.

—EDITORS.

The Switch On Palestine

There can be little doubt that the partition of Palestine is being blocked by the struggle between the Soviet Union and the Western Powers. A land once known for milk and honey now flows with oil, and the homeland of three great religions is having its fate decided by expediency without a sign of the spiritual and ethical considerations which should be determining, at least in that part of the world. Ancient Palestine was once described as "not the land of philosophers but the home of prophets." It would take a prophet sitting on a rapidly spinning turntable to have foreseen the course which our Government has pursued during these last few months.

Three things need to be said, and to be said at once, concerning the present shift of American policy on Palestine. The first is that it comes as a climax to a series of moves which has seldom been matched, for ineptness, in the handling of any international issue by an American Administration. The second is that it is a plain and unmistakable surrender to the threat of force. And the third is that it holds little promise of being able to avoid the very hazards which it is intended to circumvent.

So far as the first point is concerned, it may be said that all of the critical considerations now enumerated by Mr. Austin as reasons for our Government's change of policy—namely, the strength of Arab opposition to the partition plan, the necessity of providing a large international

armed force to implement that plan, the reluctance of the small nations and all of the large Powers, with the sole exception of Soviet Russia, which has its own objectives in the Mediterranean, to provide that force—were inherent in the situation when the original decision in favor of partition was made last November 29. Nevertheless, it was primarily on the initiative, and under the pressure, of our Government that the decision for partition was adopted. Somewhere along the line there has been a shocking lack of liaison and of common purposes between the American State Department and the American delegation in the United Nations, with the White House itself apparently utterly at sea. Inept, uncertain and confused, the prestige of American foreign policy has suffered a severe blow in the handling of this issue.

As for the second point—the surrender to the threat of force—it is obviously and admittedly Arab intransigence that has forced the American Government to change its policy and to bow to Arab threats, and to propose that the whole United Nations retreat with us in the face of Arab scorn and fury. Unfortunately, if this is done, it will not be the first time that the United Nations has had to yield to the threat of force. It has been bludgeoned out of Northern Korea by Soviet Russia and out of the Balkans by Soviet Russia's satellites, but each surrender of this kind is a blow to the authority of the United Nations. Meantime, we have played a shabby trick on the Jewish community in Palestine, which put its faith in our promises.

Finally, where does this new decision leave us? It leaves us still under the inexorable necessity of helping to furnish that international armed force which we have been so reluctant to provide. For to maintain what Mr. Austin describes as a "temporary trusteeship" over the whole of Palestine will certainly require an armed force. It may well require an even larger armed force than would be required for partition, for, as Secretary General Lie notes, the United Nations Special Commission on Palestine drew the conclusion that "a trusteeship for Palestine would be fought by two parties instead of one." This is the prospect with which the whole series of moves now culminating in Mr. Austin's announcement leaves us.

house, but found nothing to support the boy's allegation.

☆

WARNING that the restitution law provides a five-year prison term for persons failing to report they hold Jewish property, Dr. Philip Auerbach, Commissioner for Persecutees in the Bavarian Government, reported that few Germans owning such property have notified the authorities.

Dr. Auerbach said that it would be impossible to permit German police to enter displaced persons camps to make arrests, as was recently requested, since many former Nazis have managed to join the police force following their "denazification." The commissioner also advocated the enactment of a law which would give concentration camp victims industrial property, such as factories, which were owned and operated by the camps "since this property was paid for by the persecutees with their own blood."

☆

APPROXIMATELY 100,000 Jews in 200 DP camps and communities in the American zone went to the polls to vote for representatives to the Central Committee. The election, by secret ballot, was held in all Jewish installations, including hospitals and sanatoria.

A proportional representation method of voting was used, with the voters expressing their choice of Zionist or non-Zionist parties. First choices gained by each party will determine the party's representation at a general congress called for the end of March where officers for the Central Committee will be elected. Final returns will not be determined for several days because of poor communications throughout the zone.

☆

THE present leadership of the Jewish community in Vienna does not fulfill its duties to Austria and is undemocratic, Vice-Chancellor Adolf Schaerf told a Jewish mass meeting called in connection with the forthcoming elections within the Jewish community in Vienna. He urged them to vote for the Socialist candidates.

Schaerf asserted that 26,000 apartments, among them a considerable number of which had formerly belonged to

Jews, have since the liberation, been inhabited by persons receiving Russian support. He added, in answer to a question, that restitution of Jewish property had been delayed, but indicated that the Austrian Government was helpless against the Russians, who claim all Aryanized property in Austria as German assets.

☆

AN investigating commission of the Vienna University's Medical Department acquitted Dr. J. Zikowsky, head of the infectious disease department of its hospital, of charges of performing unnecessary medical experiments on twenty Jewish refugee children last September.

Zikowsky was found not guilty because the incisions and lumbar punctures, which Jewish physicians had called unnecessary, were "entirely in accordance with medical regulations," the commission's statement said. The police then said they found no reason for further investigation.

☆

"THE TRIAL," an Austrian film touching on the problem of anti-Semitism, will be released for public consumption despite the protest of the Vienna Jewish community, Minister of Interior Helmer declared this week.

Helmer said that several Austrian provincial governments had banned the showing of the film on their own authority. He termed their action as "bordering on censorship." The Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction described the movie as a "production of great artistic value and heralding a trend against anti-Semitism." The disputed film depicts a ritual murder in a small Hungarian village during the last century.

☆

DITAR VON WISLICZENY, Gestapo liaison agent with the puppet pro-Nazi Slovak Government, has been sentenced by a Slovak court to be hanged for his responsibility in the deportation of thousands of Jews to German death camps.

Earlier, the court heard testimony to the effect that Wisliczeny had promised many Jews their freedom from deportation if they would pay him a huge bribe. The Slovak Jews, by that time already impoverished by the Nazis and local fascists who had confiscated or fined them most of their worldly goods, managed to raise the equivalent of \$50,000 in cash

J. D. C. PROVIDES MATZOHS FOR POLISH COMMUNITY

CLOSE TO 600,000 pounds of matzo and matzoh flour have reached the offices of the Joint Distribution Committee for distribution to the Jewish community in Poland for the Passover holidays. Every Jew in Poland will receive approximately four pounds of matzo and one pound of flour, it was estimated.

Representatives of the J.D.C. and the Central Committee are working out a distribution plan. It is expected that wealthier individuals will be asked to contribute a special matzoh tax which will be used for Passover seders for the poor. All homes for the aged and children's institutions will receive matzo free.

Jewish bakeries in Lodz, Cracow, Wroclaw, Walbrzych and Rychbach have been promised allotments of flour by the Food Ministry for the local manufacture of matzo for Passover.

and turned it over to the Gestapo leader. Witnesses testified, however, that despite the payment of the bribe, the defendant was responsible for the deportation of the very Jews whom he had promised to protect.

The Jewish cemetery in Bratislava was the scene of a burial service for 180 scrolls of the Torah stolen from Dutch Jewish communities by the Nazis. Dr. A. Sicher, chief rabbi of Prague, officiated at the service, which was attended by a large number of local Jewish residents, as well as two representatives of the Jewish community in the Netherlands. The scrolls had been mutilated by the Nazis beyond possible repair.

DR. PHILIP E. AUERBACH, Commissioner for Persecutees in the Bavarian Government, who was confined in the Oswiecim death camp for two years, told the war crimes court in Nuremberg, trying 21 top Nazi diplomats and ministers that he knew from official records that 4,800,000 persons were exterminated in the camp.

Auerbach said he was arrested by the Gestapo in 1940 in France after the Germans overran that country and was sent to Berlin where he remained under arrest

until 1943 when he was transferred to Oswiecim. He was assigned to disinfecting fellow inmates, he said.

Another prosecution witness, Mrs. Jeanette Wolf, who is at present a member of the Berlin city council, testified on the terrible conditions in the Riga Ghetto, where 20,000 Jews were held, to which she was sent in 1941. The 60-year-old witness said that on an extremely cold November day, the Nazis rounded up hundreds of children and took them away from the ghetto in open trucks. They were never seen again, she added.

☆

THE Post Office Department announced it will not accept money orders for Palestine. The action was taken pursuant to a request of the Palestine Government.

☆

SOME 15,000 workers affiliated with the International Ladies Garment Workers Union quit work to attend a mass rally to protest against the failure of the United Nations to protect the new Jewish state in Palestine.

The workers, members of many races, nationalities and faiths, gathered in the streets of the garment district and marched to the Manhattan Center where the protest meeting was held. The Center could hold only a small part of the marchers and an amplifying system was set up so that those who could not enter the auditorium could hear the speeches.

☆

DESPITE the British position on Palestine, sentiment in Canada is shifting toward support of complete implementation of the United Nations decision to partition Palestine.

In Parliament, Minister for External Affairs Louis St. Laurent, in response to direct questioning from the floor, indicated that Canada will accept her full share of responsibility for any action which the Security Council may undertake to implement partition or restore peace to Palestine.

An attack on Britain's Palestine policy was voiced in the Manitoba Provincial Legislature by M. A. Gray, Labor M.P. and a Jew, who expressed the hope that "Canada will continue to support the Palestine partition decision." He praised the Canadian delegation at Lake Success for fighting for partition "against every open and covert attempt to defeat it."

In Montreal, two local newspapers, the *Herald* and *Standard*, have warned that failure by the U.N. to implement its decision may mean the end of the international body. The *Herald* said that the future of the U.N. rests on its decision on the Palestine Commission's request for an "adequate force" to implement partition, while the *Standard* also rested its analysis of the situation on the question of an international force.

☆

THE three-member commission would administer the act with regard to restrictions on qualifications for immigration, on whether adequate job and housing facilities exist for them in the community in which they would wish to settle and whether they might become public charges. The members of the commission would be appointed by the President with Senate approval, would receive an annual salary of \$10,000 and their terms would run to June 30, 1951. The commission would be required to sub-

mit a yearly report to the President and Congress on the operation of the program.

The bill also requires that not less than 50 percent of the visas issued shall be available only to persons previously engaged in agricultural pursuits and who will be employed in the United States in the same type of work.

Displaced orphans in Italy or the British, French or American zones of Germany or Austria lawfully adopted by American citizens, may be admitted to the U. S. as non-quota immigrants, the bill provides.

☆

THE House Appropriations Committee, which is considering funds for the Department of Labor and the Federal Security Agency, voted to deny federal funds to states which discriminate in employment and education on racial grounds.

Rep. Frank B. Keefe, of Wisconsin, chairman of the sub-committee, said that medical aid, unemployment compensation and vocational education would be chiefly

Senate Committee Acts Favorably on Bill Admitting D. P.'s to U. S. A.

THE Senate Judiciary Committee reported favorably to the Senate a report on displaced persons and a bill calling for the admission of 100,000 DP's to the United States at the rate of 50,000 a year for the next two years. It also proposed the creation of a three-man displaced persons commission to administer the bill.

The report and bill were prepared under the direction of Sen. Chapman Revercomb of West Virginia, chairman of a Judiciary sub-committee which also included Sens. Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri, John Cooper of Kentucky, J. Howard McGrath of Rhode Island and Patrick McCarran of Nevada. Sen. Cooper was in favor of admitting 75,000 a year for the two-year period, and Sen. McGrath urged 70,000 a year, but both these recommendations were defeated in the full committee, as was one by Sen. Homer Ferguson of Michigan for 100,000 a year for two years.

The deadline on a second section of the bill dealing with the general immigration picture was extended to May 1.

Displaced persons eligible under the bill are those who, from Sept. 1, 1939 to Dec. 22, 1945 entered Germany, Austria or Italy, or who on July 1, 1948 were in Italy or the American, British or French zones of Germany or Austria, or persons who were victims of Nazi persecution who fled and were later returned to one of those countries. Priority in the issuance of visas will be given to persons who are in displaced persons camps on July 1 of this year but "in exceptional cases," visas may be issued to eligible DP's and orphans living outside the camps.

The bill was reported out with one dissenting vote, cast by Sen. William Langer, of North Dakota. A number of amendments were defeated. Most of them were variations on the number of persons to be admitted each year. One that was defeated would have allowed numbers to accumulate from one year to the next and another would have chosen DP's with skills in proportion to a cross-section of skills found in the DP camps.

affected. The present law provides that persons of all races must be given equal opportunity, he said.

☆

The first non-sectarian medical school under Jewish auspices will be established by Yeshiva University, it was announced at a dinner of the Society for the Advancement of Pro-Medical Sciences at Yeshiva University.

Dr. Elihu Katz, chairman of the Society, said that the first objective of the organization was to enroll 100,000 members to raise \$7,500,000 for the University's academic and physical expansion program. When sufficient funds are available a medical school will be established, he stated. Speakers at the dinner included Under-Secretary of State David A. Morse, Judge Jonah Goldstein, and Dr. Horace Kallen of the New School for Social Research.

☆

For the first time in the history of Mexican Jewry, democratic elections were held in Mexico City for the Jewish Central Committee in which the entire Jewish adult population was given the right to vote.

Arthur Wolfowich, noted Zionist leader, was re-elected president of the Committee. The Zionist list of candidates received sixty percent of all the votes and won eight of the fourteen seats in the Committee. The Jewish People's Group secured three seats, while the Independent Group and the Jewish Socialist Bund won two seats each.

☆

A group of Georgia teachers is instituting court action to stop Tom Linder,

state commissioner of agriculture, from using the Georgia Market Bulletin—a state publication—to air his religious, racial and political prejudices. Linder was elected to his present post with the support of the Ku Klux Klan, the report said.

☆

THE Esco Foundation for Palestine composition scholarship, for study this summer at the Berkshire Music Center in Tanglewood, Mass., has been awarded to 29-year-old Herbert Brun, of Tel Aviv, by the American judges, Leonard Bernstein, Henry Cowell, Ethel S. Cohen, Frederick Jacobi, Wallingford Riegger and Stefan Wolpe.

☆

A plaque in memory of Major General Maurice Rose of Denver, who died in action while serving on the European front, was unveiled in the synagogue at Bellevue Hospital here.

The plaque was presented by the Jewish War Veterans, whose national commander, Brig. Gen. Julius Klein, said at the unveiling ceremonies: "This is a reminder to those who slander American Jews." High-ranking Army officers, including Gen. J. Lawton Collins, Deputy Chief of Staff, of the Army, attended the ceremonies.

☆

THE size and number of Reform congregations in this country has been increasing steadily, it was reported at the closing session of a two-day meeting of the Eastern President Conference of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in New York.

The parley, attended by 100 presidents

BRITISH GOVERNMENT SPONSORS CHAGALL EXHIBIT

AN EXHIBITION of 40 years of Marc Chagall's works opened in the London Tate Gallery, national gallery of British art, under the auspices of the British Art Council, a government-sponsored group.

This is the first time such an exhibition has been arranged for a Jewish painter. A number of Chagall's works were assembled for museums in all parts of the world.

and vice-presidents of congregations in the eastern part of the U. S., also heard a report to the effect that the UAHC's program of seminars, forums and symposia for Christians and Jews was helping to clear up misunderstanding among the various faiths.

☆

DR. ABRAM L. SACHAR, who served for 15 years as director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, was honored at a dinner in New York, sponsored by the Metropolitan Council of B'nai Brith. Dr. Sachar, who resigned from his post at the end of last year, will devote himself to lecturing and writing. Speakers at the dinner included Frank Goldman, national president of B'nai Brith.

☆

TWENTY-FIVE scrolls containing the Book of Esther were sent to Jewish communities in Poland and Italy by the S.O.S. Collection of the J.D.C.

The scrolls, which were used during the Purim celebration, were donated by congregations in Texas, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and New York. Additional shipments of the scrolls were expected to be made to meet the needs of 190 synagogues overseas which reported they have none.

☆

CONSTRUCTION of temporary quarters has begun at Neveh Abba, a new settlement near Nathanya named in honor of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver. Each settler will receive a small house with about one dunam of J.N.F. land suitable for truck farming.

2000 Jewish Refugees Cross Into France Monthly

APPROXIMATELY 2,000 Jewish refugees are entering France monthly and pose "vast new problems" to Joint Distribution Committee assistance efforts, it was reported by Laura Margolis, J.D.C. Director for France, who has just returned to the United States.

"The refugees enter France from Eastern Europe and the DP areas, dependent on J.D.C. for basic necessities—food, clothing, and medicines," Miss Margolis declared. "J.D.C. provides all of this, and also maintains a chain of 18 hotels

to shelter the newcomers." As a result, she said, one-third of all J.D.C. appropriations in France are going to this refugee group.

According to the J.D.C. official, most of the newcomers will be unable to emigrate from France within the near future and need continued large-scale assistance until they can become self-supporting. She disclosed that the refugees enter under the guarantee of the J.D.C. that they will not become public charges.

BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER NEWS

Center to Celebrate Rabbi Levinthal's Sixtieth Birthday

THE Sixtieth birthday anniversary of our beloved rabbi, Dr. Israel H. Levinthal will be celebrated with a membership reception to be given in his honor on Tuesday evening, April 6th, promptly at 8:15 o'clock in our Main Synagogue. The guest speakers will be Prof. Louis Finkelstein, President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and Judge Louis E. Levinthal of Philadelphia, former President of the Zionist Organization of America. Greetings on behalf of the Center will be presented by our Honorary President, Mr. Samuel Rottenberg and Judge Emanuel Greenberg, President of the Center. Dr. Moses Spatt, Chairman of the Committee, will preside. Rev. Sauler and Sidor Belarsky, famous baritone will entertain. At the conclusion of the program, the guests will be invited to the Dining Room and the Auditorium where refreshments will be served. Admission will be limited to members and their wives. Members are therefore urged to please send in their requests for cards of admission, without which no one will be permitted to attend.

Board of Trustees and Governing Board to Honor Dr. Levinthal at Dinner

ON the occasion of Rabbi Levinthal's sixtieth birthday, the members of the Board of Trustees and the Governing Board and their wives will tender a testimonial dinner to the Rabbi on Thursday evening, April 8th.

Dr. Levinthal to Preach Post Purim Sermon This Friday Night

THIS Friday, March 26th, at our late services which begin at 8:30 o'clock, Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal will preach on the subject "Haman and Amalek—A Post Purim Message For Our Day." His theme will deal with the treacherous forces endeavoring to thwart the creation of the Jewish State.

We are certain that many of our members, their friends and relatives will want to hear this timely and most interesting lecture and are cordially invited.

IN THE HEBREW SCHOOL

A SPECIAL breakfast was arranged for the Post-Bar Mitzvah Class on Sunday, March 21, 1948. Mrs. Kushner, president of the P. T. A. was in charge of the arrangements. Others on the committee were Mrs. Altman Mrs. Flamm, Mrs. Levitt, and Mrs. Stachenfeld. The breakfast was preceded by a service conducted by the Bar-Mitzvah boys. The following led in the service:

Herbert Kasnetz, Robert Kritz, Stanley Green and Edward Sharkey.

Three of the contestants from the Brooklyn Jewish Center won prizes in the city-wide contest arranged by the Metropolitan Jewish Book Council in connection with Jewish Book Month. The winners were Toby Brown (grade 6E-Hebrew School), Joan Seligman (grade VII-Religious School), and Elizabeth Gropper (grade 8, Center Academy).

A Purim Operetta under the direction of Mr. Julius Grossman was presented on Purim, March 25, 1948, for the Hebrew and Sunday Schools. In addition, the Palestinian film, "Assignment, Tel Aviv" was shown. The following were in the cast of the operetta:

Arthur Brimberg, Richard Stadin,

Morton Bromberg, Sherry Stapleman, Jeannette Flamm, Charles Stromfeld, George Steinberg, Hannah Swirin, Judy Wiles, Ellen Gofseoff, Deborah Rothman, Ruth Berman, Sydelle Stenzler, Herbert Kasnetz, Stuart Perlman, and Alan Gottdenker and the entire Brooklyn Jewish Center school choir.

A special reading of the Megillah for the students of the Hebrew School was held on Wednesday, March 24, 1948 at 5:30 P.M. Excerpts from the Megillah were read by Mr. S. Edelheit. Purim songs were sung by the school.

Campaigns on behalf of the Histadruth Ivrit and the Children's Upbuilding Fund for Palestine are now being run by the students of the Hebrew and Religious Schools. The Children's Upbuilding Fund is under the auspices of the Hebrew Educators' Committee. Proceeds will be dedicated to a Palestinian naval school in honor of William Bernstein, the first mate of the Haganah ship, "Exodus, 1947," who died from wounds received when the boat was intercepted by the British.

The P. T. A. donated an RCA Radio and Record Player for use of the students in the Hebrew and Sunday Schools.

Hebrew School P. T. A. Meeting March 31st

THE next meeting of the Parent-Teachers Association of the Hebrew and Religious Schools will be held on Wednesday evening, March 31, 1948. It will be a "Purim Festival Meeting." A Purim Operetta will be presented by the Hebrew and Sunday School choir, under the direction of Mr. Julius Grossman. Greetings will be extended by Rabbi Mordecai H. Lewittes. Rabbi Manuel Saltzman will address the parents. Refreshments will be served.

Sisterhood Campaign for U. J. A.

ALL women contributing between \$52. and \$100. to the United Jewish Appeal will be invited to a luncheon on April 5th. Sisterhood members are kindly urged to make reservations by contacting

Mrs. Isador Lowenfeld, 258 Sullivan Place, SL 6-9865; Mrs. Maurice Bernhardt, 1368 Carroll Street, SL 6-2135; or the Center office, PR 4-1400.

Sabbath Services

Friday evening services at 6:00.

Kindling of candles at 5:54.

Sabbath services, "Zav"—Leviticus 6-1-8:36; Prophets Jeremiah 7.21-8.3; 9-22-23—will commence at 8:45 a.m.

Mincha services Saturday at 6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Levinthal will preach on the weekly portion of the Torah.

Rabbi George Abelson will continue his lecture in Yiddish this Saturday afternoon at 5:15 p.m.

Daily Services

Morning services at 8:00 o'clock.

Mincha services at 6:00 p.m.

Center Committees Appointed

OUR President, Judge Emanuel Greenberg, has appointed the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of standing committees:

Budget Committee: Samuel Lemberg, Chairman.

Catering Committee: Dr. Moses Spatt, Chairman.

Cemetery Committee: Samuel Lemberg, Chairman; Isidor Fine, Vice-Chairman.

Chebra Kadisha: Louis Albert, Chmn.

Committee on Delinquent Accounts: Morton Klinghoffer, Chairman.

Forum and Education Committee: Harry Blickstein, Chairman; Isaac Siegmeister, Vice-Chairman.

Committee on Fund Raising Activities: Dr. Moses Spatt, Chairman.

Hebrew Education Committee: Frank Schaeffer, Chairman; Max Goldberg, Vice-Chairman.

House Committee: Hyman Aaron, Chairman; Bernard J. Aaron, Vice-Chairman.

Library Committee: Dr. Irving L. Cohen, Chairman; Morris Neinken, Vice-Chairman.

Membership Committee: Samuel H. Goldberg, Chairman; Herbert Turner, Vice-Chairman.

Physical Training Committee: David B. Kaminsky, Chairman; Isador Lowenfeld, Vice-Chairman.

Publicity Committee: Louis J. Gribetz, Chairman; William I. Siegel, Vice-Chmn.

Committee on Ritual and Religious Service: Louis Daum, Chairman; Morris D. Wender, Vice-Chairman.

Sub-committees:

Musical Services: Irving S. Horowitz, Chairman.

Usbers Committee: Jack Sterman, Chairman.

Pulpit Committee: Morris D. Wender, chairman

Social and Entertainment Committee: Saul S. Abelow, Chairman; Ira I. Gluckstein, Vice-Chairman.

Visitations Committee: Louis Simon, Chairman; Philip Palevsky, Vice-Chmn.

Youth Activities Committee: Reuben Frieman, Chairman; Julius Zimmerman, Vice-Chairman.

Zionist Activities Committee: David Spiegel, Chairman.

Palestinian Journalist to Address Zionist Meeting April 1st

A MASS meeting under the auspices of the Zionist District No. 14 will be held at the Center on Thursday evening, April 1st at 8:30 o'clock. The guest speaker will be Yehuda Hellman, Palestinian Journalist, an expert on Arab affairs. Mr. Hellman was a correspondent for the Palestinian Post with the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. He has covered the London-Anglo Arab Conference and the United Nations proceedings at Lake Success. He will speak on "After Lake Success—What Next In Palestine?" "The Birth Of a Prophecy"—a film story of the Jewish Agency in action, will be shown. Center members and their friends

Advance Notice

NEXT Friday, April 2nd, at our late services, Rabbi Manuel Saltzman will preach the sermon on the subject "What Religion Teaches Us About War."

Rabbi Lelyveld Guest Speaker At U. J. A. Dinner

THE Annual Dinner of the Brooklyn Jewish Center Committee on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal will be held at the Center on Thursday evening, May 6th at 6:30 o'clock.

The guest speaker will be Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, National Director of the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundations and well known Jewish communal and educational leader.

Junior League News

THE meeting of the Junior League scheduled for Thursday evening, April 1st, will feature an April Fool Social directed by Marty Karlin. This promises to be one of the highspots of the season—don't fail to attend. A social hour and dancing will follow.

Unveiling

THE unveiling of a monument in memory of Mr. Morris Shorin will take place on Sunday morning, March 28th at 11:30 at the Montefiore Cemetery, Jewish Center Subdivision, Plots 1-2-32, Block 322, Springfield Boulevard, L. I. In case of rain, the unveiling will be held the following Sunday.

In the Junior Clubs

THE Junior Clubs have been busy preparing for their Purim extravaganza

which will take place in the Beth Hamedrash Saturday evening, March 26th at 8 o'clock. All the clubs will be represented on the program. Jimmy Lewishohn will speak on the "Significance of Purim for Jewish Youth." Morton and Clara Bromberg will render piano selections and Conrad Lefkowitz will play the clarinet. Mr. Julius Grossman, Musical Director of the Center, will lead the group in Purim songs.

Adult Institute Classes

The classes which meet on Tuesday evening, will meet on Wednesday, April 7th because of the celebration of Dr. Levinthal's birthday anniversary on Tuesday, April 6th.

Congratulations

HEARTIEST congratulations and best wishes are extended to the following:

Miss Charlotte R. Cohen of 12 Hart Street, who announces her engagement to Mr. Hy Edelson.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Faber of 706 Eastern Parkway on the marriage of their daughter, Elenore, to Mr. Milton H. Shapiro on March 20th.

Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Ginsburg of 699 Lefferts Avenue, on the marriage of their daughter Doris, to Mr. Edward A. Fogelman on March 21st.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Greenblatt of 1372 Carroll Street upon the marriage of their son, Irwin, to Miss Marilyn Barbara Ginsberg on March 21st. Congratulations are also extended to the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Silberberg and Mrs. Hannah Greenblatt.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Scharff of 925 Prospect Place on the occasion of the marriage of their son, Albert to Miss Selma Cohen on March 21st.

Mr. Lawrence Schwartz of 557 Midwood Street on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Sandy Cohen on March 20th. Congratulations are also extended to the sister, Mrs. Harold Forman.

Bar Mitzvah

A HEARTY Mazel Tov is extended to Mr. and Mrs. William Brody of 624 Empire Boulevard on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, James, which will be celebrated at the Center this Saturday morning, March 27th.

YAHREZITS—APRIL, 1948

Sam Katz	Mother	April 1	21 Adar II
Mayer Kenin	Mother	April 1	21 Adar II
Seymour Seligman	Mother	April 1	21 Adar II
Jacob Shapiro	Mother	April 1	21 Adar II
Morris Traub	Father	April 1	21 Adar II
Dr. Benjamin Koven	} Mother	April 2	22 Adar II
Max N. Koven			
Dr. Morris T. Koven			
Miss Dora Leaks	Father	April 2	22 Adar II
Max Levine	Father	April 2	22 Adar II
Philip Feinberg	Father	April 3	23 Adar II
Dr. Max Goldstein	Mother	April 3	23 Adar II
Nathan Levitas	Brother	April 3	23 Adar II
Isador Lowenfeld	Mother	April 3	23 Adar II
Charles Wunderlich	Father	April 4	24 Adar II
Mrs. Annie Reichman	Husband	April 5	25 Adar II
Jacob Levine	Mother	April 6	26 Adar II
Jacob A. Fortunoff	Mother	April 7	27 Adar II
Joseph Levy, Jr.	Father	April 7	27 Adar II
A. E. Ratner	Mother	April 7	27 Adar II
Mrs. H. Zirinsky	Son	April 7	27 Adar II
Harry Zirinsky	Brother		
Isidore Gottlieb	Mother	April 8	28 Adar II
Morris Groden	Father	April 8	28 Adar II
Mrs. Simon Halpern	Husband	April 9	29 Adar II
Mrs. Sol Horowitz	Mother	April 10	1 Nisan
Bernard Sussman	} Mother	April 10	1 Nisan
Harold Sussman			
Jack Eaton	Father	April 11	2 Nisan
Barnett Tanenbaum	Father	April 11	2 Nisan
Mrs. Alex Engel	Husband	April 12	3 Nisan
Mrs. Sol Horowitz	Father	April 12	3 Nisan
Samuel Horowitz	Brother	April 13	4 Nisan
Moses Reznick	Father	April 13	4 Nisan
Louis Kohn	Father	April 14	5 Nisan
Charles Schless	Mother	April 14	5 Nisan
Mrs. Alex Bernstein	Mother	April 15	6 Nisan
Charles Safier	Father	April 15	6 Nisan
Mrs. Samuel Barnett	Husband	April 16	7 Nisan
Abraham Karlin	Father	April 16	7 Nisan
Harry S. Katlowitz	Father	April 16	7 Nisan
Mrs. Rose Fleishman	} Father	April 17	8 Nisan
Abe H. Zirn			
Samuel Zirn			
David B. Kaminsky	Father	April 18	9 Nisan
Irving Gottlieb	} Father	April 19	10 Nisan
Mrs. Charles Safier			
Mrs. Norbert Unger	} Mother	April 19	10 Nisan
David B. Kaminsky			
Benjamin Kaplan	Wife	April 21	12 Nisan
Mrs. Harry Levy	} Brother	April 21	12 Nisan
Mrs. Isador Lowenfeld			
Dr. Irving Moskowitz			
Moses Resnick	Mother	April 22	13 Nisan

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The following have applied for membership in the Brooklyn Jewish Center:

BAUMGARTEN, Miss LILLIAN
Res. 307 Sterling St.
Proposed by Morris Dershowitz

BENJAMIN, MITCHELL
Res. 31 Billings Pl.
Bus. Mfg., 110 West 40th St.
Single
*Proposed by Florence Gallant,
Minnie S. Cutler*

BERGER, MORRIS
Res. 317 Albany Ave.
Bus. Insurance, 138 Montague St.
*Proposed by Hyman Kaplan,
Aaron Pollack*

BLUMBERG, RICHARD
Res. 201 Linden Blvd.
Student
Single
*Proposed by Maurice Yaffe,
Jack M. Blumberg*

COHEN, ISIDORE
Res. 321 East 92nd St.
Bus. Hebrew Home, 3573 Bruckner
Bldv.
Married
*Proposed by Abe Mann,
Louis Rosenblatt*

DAAR, JOSEPH M.
Res. 1212 Lincoln Pl.
Bus. Gov't, 90 Church St.
Married

DUBOFF, MURRAY M.
Res. 654 Sheffield Ave.

Bus. Ins. Adjuster, 1797 Pitkin Ave.
Single

Proposed by Abe Mann
ENGEL, HARRY
Res. 919 Park Pl.
Bus. Import, 170 Broadway
Married
*Proposed by Abraham Gross,
Max Pressner*

FARBER, Miss FLORENCE
Res. 144 East 94th St.
*Proposed by Dr. Alexander Leff,
Ben Leff*

FRIEDRICH, DR. MARTIN
Res. 1486 President St.
Bus. Physician, 1504 President St.
Married
*Proposed by Dr. Alex Slinger,
Abr. Shapiro*
GARVIN, Miss LYNN
Res. 706 Lefferts Ave.
*Proposed by Richard Nepon,
Gerald Jacobs*

GOLDBERG, IRVING T.
Res. 751 St. Marks Ave.
Bus. Attorney, 725 Nostrand Ave.
Married
*Proposed by Joseph Levy, Jr.,
Abe Mann*

GOTTLIEB, HARRY
Res. 217 Ocean Ave.
Bus. Insurance, 217 Ocean Ave.
Married

GREENBERG, EMIL
Res. 240 Crown St.

Bus. Librarian, Brooklyn College.
Married
*Proposed by Wm. C. Smerling,
Harry H. Cohen*

HERMAN, LOUIS
Res. 564 Empire Blvd.
Bus. Millinery, 289 Kingston Ave.
Married
Proposed by Mrs. M. Robert Epstein
JOSEPH, Miss ESTELLE
Res. 475 Riverdale Ave.
Proposed by Hy and Sol Rosen

LEVENTHAL, JACK
Res. 1360—48th St.
Bus. Hosiery, 60 Orchard St.
Single

Proposed by A. L. Goldman
LEVY, HAROLD N.

Res. 934 Carroll St.
Bus. Shoes, 1136 Fulton St.
Single
*Proposed by Abe Mann,
Jos. Schonbrun*

LIEBERMAN, JACK
Res. 270 Crown St.
Bus. Pharmacy, 318 Rogers Ave.
Married
*Proposed by Isador Lowenfeld,
Dr. Irv. L. Moskowitz*

MEYERSON, Miss MIRIAM
Res. 724 Montgomery St.
Proposed by Mrs. Louis J. Roth

OGINZ, Miss MURIEL
Res. 257 Herzl St.
*Proposed by Richard Nepon,
Jacqueline Benson*

ORLINS, MYRON S.
Res. 576 Eastern Parkway
Bus. Export, 20 Broad St.
Single
Proposed by A. L. Goldman

RAUCHER, HERMAN
Res. 50 East 19th St.
Student
Single
*Proposed by Maurice Jaffe,
Jack M. Blumberg*

ROSENBLUM, EDWARD
Res. 897 Empire Blvd.
Bus. Engraving, 265 Canal St.
Single
Proposed by
SCHAEFFER, EDWARD P.
Res. 485 Ocean Ave.
Bus. Service Sta., 259 Empire Blvd.
Married
*Proposed by Phil Amster,
Geo. Feldman*

Morris Rosen	Son	April 22	13 Nisan
Sol Horowitz	Father	April 23	14 Nisan
Mrs. Alexander Bernstein	Father	April 24	15 Nisan
Saul Abelov	Mother	April 25	16 Nisan
Charles Dilbert	Mother	April 25	16 Nisan
Mrs. S. A. Schneider	Father	April 26	17 Nisan
Victor Filler	Wife	April 26	17 Nisan
Mrs. Carl Sklar	Daughter		
Louis Gordon	Brother	April 27	18 Nisan
Herman A. Katz	Mother	April 27	18 Nisan
Martin Katz			
Paul Katz			
Phil Katz	Mother	April 28	19 Nisan
Leo Kaufman			

NOTE: Observance of Yahrzeit commences on the evening preceding the specified date.

SCHWARTZ, MISS LILLIAN
Res. 385 So. 4th St.
Proposed by Jack Silverman

SHEREN, MISS BEATRICE
Res. 28 Christopher Ave.
Proposed by Hy and Sol Rosen

SHERRY, ARTHUR
Res. 115 East 21st St.
Bus. Knit Goods, 93 Worth St.
Single
Proposed by A. L. Goldman

SIMENOWITZ, DANIEL H.
Res. 1079 Carroll St.
Bus. Attorney, 291 Broadway
Married
*Proposed by Irving Kramer,
Frank Rose*

SOROTSKY, MISS CLAIRE
Res. 919 Saratoga Ave.
Proposed by Milton Slow

SUBIN, LOUIS
Res. 1198 Carroll St.
Bus. Macy's, Herald Square
Married
Proposed by Isador Lowenfeld

SUESS, MISS MARILYN
Res. 675 Empire Blvd.
*Proposed by Richard Nepon,
Leo Chizner*

WOLF, MORRIS
Res. 31 East 54th St.
Bus. Furs, 155 West 29th St.
Married
*Proposed by Samuel Chasin,
Abe Mann*

The following have applied for reinstatement:

CAHAN, BEN
Res. 50 Plaza St.
Bus. Food Packers, 269—37th St.
Married
Proposed by Chas. Dilbert

ENGEL, HAROLD Z.
Res. 551 Crown St.
Bus. Junior Wear, 1359 Broadway
*Proposed by Lawrence and
Samuel Stark*

STRAUSBERG, MORRIS O.
Res. 135 Eastern Parkway
Bus. Motion Picture, 120 W. 42nd St.
Married
*Proposed by Abe Mann,
Meyer Hausner*

LATE APPLICATIONS

JABLON, MISS PEARL
Res. 831 Saratoga Ave.

KOTIN, CHARLES
Res. 1325 Union St.
Bus. Polo Shirts, 138 Broadway
Married
Proposed by Louis Gordon

KOZUPSKY, HAROLD
Res. 1687 Sterling Pl.
Bus. Wholesale, 462 Broadway
Single

Proposed by Richard Nepon
MIZNER, MISS HELEN

Res. 1549 Prospect Pl.
*Proposed by Jeanette Block,
Bella Block*

SCHOENBACH, JACOB
Res. 52 Balfour Pl.
Bus. Jobber, 1645 Bedford Ave.
Proposed by Richard Nepon

SIEBNER, MISS LENORE
Res. 1225 Eastern Parkway
*Proposed by Jeanette Block,
Bella Block*
Married

SHAPIRO, MISS GERTRUDE
Res. 831 Linden Blvd.
Proposed by Shirley Blacher

WIEN, ALLEN A.
Res. 143 Penn St.
Bus. Furs, 158 W. 27th St.
Single
*Proposed by Irwin Cohen,
Morris Dershowitz*

SAMUEL H. GOLDBERG,
Chairman, Membership Committee.

Persons

BEST wishes are extended to the following:

Mr. Bruce Douglas, son of Dr. and Mrs. William Douglas of 569 Eastern Parkway, who will be graduated this June from the New York University College of Dentistry and has been accepted for his internship at the Queens General Hospital.

Mr. Daniel L. Kurshan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Kurshan of 1495 President Street, who has been serving as Chief of the Administrative Management unit of the Mayor's Division of Analysis, was named Program Director of the Citizens Budget Commission.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ross of 270 Crown Street announce that their daughter, Sondra, recently married to Dr. Chester Elliot, has received her Bachelor

of Science degree from George Washington University.

Acknowledgment of Gifts

WE acknowledge with thanks receipt of the donations for the purchase of Prayer Books and Taleisim and books in our library.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Dworetzky in honor of their son's Bar Mitzvah.

Mr. and Mrs. Isador Lowenfeld, in memory of parents.

Mrs. Rose Posner in honor of the birth of a grandchild.

Mrs. Rose Rosenberg, in memory of parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Rothkopf, in honor of son's marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Kalman Sloate, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son.

SPECIAL POST-BAR-MITZVAH SERVICE

THE last Friday night service of the year will be designated as a Post-Bar-Mitzvah Service. Students of the Mar-shallah, Post-Graduate Hebrew Class and Post-Bar-Mitzvah Class who have completed two years of study after their Bar-Mitzvah will be awarded certificates of achievement.

The following will receive certificates: Burton Garber, Thomas Kraner, Robert Kritz, Lawrence Heimowitz, Stanley Green, Leonard Berman, Sandor Schaeffer, Alex Sterman, Abner Beder, Morris Flamm, Lloyd Altman, and Daniel Klinghoffer.

Young People's League Convention April 1 - 2 - 3

THE Young People's League of the United Synagogue of America is holding their convention at Atlantic City, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and members of our Young Folks League are reminded to please make plans to attend.

Young Folks League Notes

THE Young Folks League of the Center is asked to reserve Saturday evening, May 22nd for an important Young Folks League function. More details later.

Red Cross Campaign

MRS. LAWRENCE MEYER has been appointed the chairman of the Red Cross Drive for this year and members are asked to please send their checks to Mrs. Meyer in care of the Center.

A QUIZ FOR YOUR FAITH

[Continued from page 13]

United Jewish Appeal, the Federation of Charities, educational and higher institutions of learning? (13 points)

Read the above over carefully and check your replies.

	Should Be	Your Rating
Part I—The Home	48
Part II—The Synagogue	26
Part III—The Community	26

This is not an exhaustive test, nor a test of a truly intensive Jewish life. It is rather a test of minimum duties as a Jew. But if one has a low rating even in such a minimum program of Jewish living, it ought to serve as a reminder and warning that he or she is failing in duty

as a Jew. It should make the person realize that we are unworthy of the name Jew unless we try to live up to certain obligations of Jewish living. And if one is fortunate enough to pass this self-examination with a high rating, it should spur him on to greater effort and to the realization of further obligations, knowing that the greatest joy of Jewish living comes to one who lives the Jewish life in the fullest measure of the term.

Israel H. Levinthal

CENTER ACADEMY NEWS

WE ARE proud to announce that Elizabeth Gropper of our 8th Grade is one of the winners of the book review contest conducted by the New York Metropolitan Jewish Book Council. Her prize was enrollment as a member in the Jewish Publication Society of America for the year 1948. In connection with the same contest she also received the book, "Americans All" by Leonard as one of the winners of the prize given by the local community.

The members of the Senior Class at the Center Academy were hosts to the Parents-Teachers Association on Wednesday evening, March 17th. The program for the evening consisted of a round table discussion by the graduating class on the Marshall Plan. The entire program was under the direction of Mrs. Ann D. Greenstein, teacher of the graduating class.

BEGINNING March 28th, at the Jewish Museum, 92nd Street and 5th Avenue, there will be an exhibition of paintings on the theme, "Life in Our Community." The children of the Center Academy have contributed several paintings to this exhibit.

DURING the week of March 30th through April 2nd, the Brooklyn Jewish Center will present an exhibition of the art work done by the children of the Center Academy. Paintings and clay work will be on exhibition in the auditorium. Parents are cordially invited to attend the formal opening of the exhibit on Tuesday, March 30th at 1:00 P. M. Mr. Harris, the Art Teacher, will speak briefly on the art work of the Center Academy.

TRIBUTES TO DR. LEVINTHAL

[Continued from page 13]

of our generation devotion particularly to the cause of Zion and the rebirth of an autonomous Jewish community in Eretz Yisrael, unsurpassed brilliance as a preacher, geniality as friend and companion; these, and much more, which I must leave unsaid have all contributed to place him at the pinnacle of the American rabbinate. He has set a standard for his younger colleagues to admire and to

seek to emulate.

I thank God with Rabbi Levinthal that his beloved and revered father can participate in this hour of his joy. All of us at the Seminary turn in fervent prayer to the Almighty that He may spare him and his dear, good wife in health and happiness of heart for many more decades to be his servant as he has always desired to be, and a crown of glory for all Israel.

Rabbi Levinthal at 60

[Continued from page 4]

religion the Jew is taught to see joy, hope and promise. By fulfilling the Torah, the American Jew enhances his own well-being as well as that of the community. Judaism should be observed as a living religion. For almost forty years, Dr. Levinthal has been stressing from the Center pulpit the spiritual affinity between the ideals of Americanism and Judaism.

The wisdom and learning Rabbi Levinthal has showered on his Congregation and the community during his long ministry has been of inestimable worth to them. He has been an influence for goodness permeating all ranks of Jewry. Toiling ceaselessly, Dr. Levinthal's primary and earnest concern has been that the word of God should prevail as a force motivating men's conduct. By observing Torah, by leading righteous lives, by believing and acting in the Jewish tradition, the congregation and American Jewry will vindicate all that Rabbi Levinthal has fought for. That is the real way to honor him and to encourage him to continue, as we fervently hope he will have the strength to do for many years to come, in his beneficent service to his people, his country and God.

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CHARLES ROSENTHAL, Director

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